

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	September 7, 2021
Action Required:	Resolution to Appropriate Funds
Presenter:	Susan Morrow, Offender Aid and Restoration
Staff Contact:	Susan Morrow, Offender Aid and Restoration Krisy Hammill, Senior Budget and Management Analyst
Title:	Resolution to Appropriate Funds for Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant - \$49,000

Background:

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Therapeutic Docket program, has received a Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$49,000 for operations of the therapeutic docket program, which is operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant.

Discussion:

In its fourth year of operation, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Therapeutic Docket program is a supervised 6 to 12 month treatment program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. The Therapeutic Docket is a specialized docket within the existing structure of the court system given the responsibility to handle cases involving non-violent adult misdemeanor offenders who suffer from serious mental illness. The program uses the power of the court to assist non-violent offenders to achieve wellness and recovery through a combined system of intensive supervision, medication management, mental health treatment, and regular court appearances.

The total program budget is **\$158,450** and includes three funding sources:

- Supreme Court of VA: \$49,000
- City of Charlottesville: \$54,450, (previously appropriated)
- Albemarle County: \$55,000, (previously appropriated)

Alignment with City Council Vision and Strategic Plan:

This relates to the City of Charlottesville’s priority area of safety/criminal justice. The Therapeutic Docket is a valuable, less expensive alternative to incarceration for certain criminal offenders with serious mental illness which utilizes a blend of court-ordered supervision, mental health treatment services, court appearances, and behavioral sanctions and incentives to reduce recidivism and enhance personal accountability and mental health and wellness among participants.

Community Engagement:

The Therapeutic Docket is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with non-violent criminal offenders with serious mental illness who are at a high level of risk for reoffending and have a high level of need due to mental illness. By collaborating with the Court system, Region Ten Community Services Board, Partners for Mental Health, and the Sheriff’s department, the Therapeutic Docket provides these offenders with a highly structured, rigorously supervised system of treatment and criminal case processing that results in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Therapeutic Docket through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending in the General District Court. If they successfully complete the program which takes a minimum of 6 months, participants may have their pending charges dismissed. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated from the program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Therapeutic Docket participants return the community’s investment in them by improving their mental health status, maintaining compliance with treatment regimens, including medications, and reducing their criminal behaviors in the community.

Budgetary Impact:

No additional City funding is required. The City’s match for this grant, \$54,450, was appropriated within the FY 2022 Council Approved Budget as part of the City’s contribution to Offender Aid and Restoration through the Vibrant Community Fund process.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval and appropriation.

Attachments:

Resolution to Appropriate Funds

**RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE
Charlottesville - Albemarle Therapeutic Docket Grant Award
\$49,000**

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Virginia awarded the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$49,000 for the Charlottesville - Albemarle Therapeutic Docket in order to fund salaries, benefits, and operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville serves as the fiscal agent for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County both have dedicated local matches to this grant, totaling \$109,450; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$49,000, received as a grant from the Supreme Court of Virginia, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$49,000 Fund: Internal Order: #1900428 G/L Account: 430110 (State Grant)

Expenditures

\$49,000 Fund: Internal Order: #1900428 G/L Account: 530670

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$49,000 from the Supreme Court of Virginia.